



USSN 101723,663
Cust. No. 01933
EX SHAH At Unit 2853

DECLARATION

Sir:

1. I, Shinichi Suzuki, hereby declare and state as follows:

That I graduated from Yokohama National University having been awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Material Chemistry in March 1981. Since April 1981, I have been employed by Konica Corporation, which is now KONICA MINOLTA HOLDINGS, INC., the Assignee of the above-identified application. During my employment, I have been engaged in the research and the study of electrophotography materials and ink jet recording materials.

2. What follows are comparative tests conducted in accordance with my detailed instructions under my direct supervision.

3. Comparative test

<Preparation of ink-jet media A, ink-jet ink A and ink-jet ink B>

The ink-jet recording media A was prepared for the comparative test, wherein the ink-jet recording media A was described in EXAMPLE 1 of Ichinose et al. (#EP 1016542 A1).

The comparative ink-jet ink A was prepared in the same manner to the preparation of Example 1A in col. 16 of Cheng et al. (#US 6,239,193 B1), except that pigment (levanyl A-SF) as colorant was changed to dye (C.I Direct blue 199) in accordance with the limitation of claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of the nonionic resinous micro-particles (Latex resin) was 385 nm.

The inventive ink-jet ink B was prepared in the same manner to the comparative ink-jet ink A, except that the average particle diameter of the nonionic resinous micro-particles (Latex resin) was 120 nm.

<Formation of ink jet images>

Images X and Y were prepared by using each of ink-jet ink A and ink-jet ink B and the ink-jet recording media A, in the same manner to the image formation described on page 64 of the specification of the application.

<Measurement and Evaluation of Ink Jet Images>

Prepared images X and Y above were evaluated according to each of the evaluation described in pages 64 to 66 in the specification, namely, Gas Fading Resistance, Glossiness, Bleeding Resistance and ink absorbing property.

4. Result

The result of each measurement and evaluation obtained above are shown in attached Table I.

As shown in Table I, when the comparative image X was formed by using the comparative ink-jet ink A which was not within the scope of claim 1 in view of the average particle diameter of the nonionic resinous micro-particles and the ink-jet recording media A, the evaluations of Gas Fading Resistance, Glossiness and Bleeding Resistance were not excellent.

On the contrary, when the inventive image Y was formed by using the inventive ink-jet ink B which was within the scope of claim 1 and the ink-jet recording media A, the evaluation of Gas Fading Resistance, Glossiness and Bleeding Resistance were excellent.

That is to say, it was clearly demonstrated that the result of each measurement and evaluation was excellent when the method of claimed 1 was carried out by using the specific ink-jet ink having specific average particle diameter of the nonionic resinous micro-particles.

5. Conclusion

In the above comparative test, it is completely shown the result that inventive method for printing an ink-jet image performs unexpected effects that is not disclosed by the references of Ichinose et al. and Cheng et al. I believe that the reasons for rejection of

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the Office Action dated December 12 2005 will be removed by the above Comparative Test, and the present invention should be allowed.

6. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001, of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issued thereon.

Dated: March 8, 2006

Shinichi Suzuki

Shinichi Suzuki

Table 1

Image No.	Recording medium	Ink		Evaluation				Remark
		average particle diameter of the nonionic resinous micro-particles	Gas Fading Resistance	Glossiness	Bleeding Resistance	ink absorbing property		
Image X	ink-jet recording media A	comparative ink-jet ink A	885 nm	2	2	C	5	Comp.
Image Y	ink-jet recording media A	inventive ink-jet ink B	120 nm	4	4	A	4	Inv.